

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

NRC-05 /095 W

----- 036146

R 150923Z MAR 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1498

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0193

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0117

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAR 8-14, 197

6

1. SUMMARY. THE PACE OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS
NEGOTIATIONS PICKED UP THIS WEEK WITH THE HOLDING OF AN
ADDITIONAL INFORMAL SESSION, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE EAST.
AT THE REGULARLY-SCHEDULED MARCH 9 INFORMAL SESSION,
WESTERN REPS REVIEWED EASTERN AND WESTERN PROPOSALS

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IN LIGHT OF GENERAL CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED TO ANY

AGREEMENT. EASTERN REPS DENIED THE VALIDITY OF THE MIXED/PACKAGE CONCEPT, ACCUSED THE WEST OF CONTINUING TO SEEK UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE AND CLAIMED THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 17 PROPOSAL MET THE WESTERN POSITION ON PHASING. AT THE WEEK'S SECOND INFORMAL SESSION ON MARCH 12, WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO FORCE DEFINITIONS, EASTERN REPS DROPPED THEIR REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR AGREEMENT ON A GENERAL PRINCIPLE FOR ALLOCATING THE THREE DISPUTED FORCE TYPES--SSM, HELICOPTER AND GROUND-BASED TERRITORIAL AIR DEFENSE--BEFORE ENTERING DETAILED DISCUSSION OF INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS. EASTERN REPS THEN PROPOSED EXCLUDING FROM THE REDUCTION BASE THOSE WARSAW PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL WHOM THEY ASSERTED PERFORMED THE SAME FUNCTIONS AS CERTAIN CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF NATO ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA. AT THE MARCH 11 PLENARY MEETING, BOTH EAST AND WEST MADE STATEMENTS WHICH WERE DEVOTED TO FAMILIAR ELEMENTS IN THE PROGRAM OF EACH AND NEITHER OF WHICH BROKE NEW GROUND. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER HAVING SOUGHT EARLIER IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS TO IMPRESS UPON THEIR WESTERN COLLEAGUES THAT THE EAST DID NOT CONSIDER ITSELF UNDER ANY PRESSURE OF TIME TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THE TALKS, EASTERN REPS HAVE LATELY TAKEN THE LINE IN BILATERAL EXCHANGES THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PICK UP THE PACE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THUS, THE EAST THIS WEEK TOOK THE UNUSUAL STEP OF PRESSING FOR A SECOND INFORMAL SESSION AND ALSO CONTINUED THE RECENT PRACTICE OF MAKING A STATEMENT AT A PLENARY MEETING WHICH NORMALLY WOULD BE ADDRESSED ONLY BY A WESTERN REP.

3. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT, THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MARCH 9 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS DEALT WITH THE REDUCTION APPROACHES OF EACH SIDE. WESTERN REPS ILLUSTRATED THE POSITIVE NATURE OF THE AUGMENTED WESTERN REDUCTION PROGRAM AND THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE EASTERN APPROACH IN THE LIGHT OF THE CRITERIA THAT SHOULD BE APPLIED TO ANY AGREEMENT. EASTERN REPS ATTACKED THE VALIDITY OF THE WESTERN MIXED-PACKAGE CONCEPT AND ACCUSED THE WEST OF CONTINUING TO SEEK

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UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE. IN DISCUSSING THEIR FEBRUARY 17 PROPOSAL, WHICH THEY CLAIMED MET THE WESTERN POSITION ON PHASING, EASTERN REPS STATED THAT: (A) STAGE ONE COMMITMENTS BY NON-US AND NON-SOVIET DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN STAGE TWO MUST BE LINKED TO A SPECIFIC DATE TO CONSTITUTE REAL OBLIGATIONS; (B) NO LIMITATION ON SOVIET FORCES IN THE USSR WAS ENVISAGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE

PROPOSED DISBANDMENT OF WITHDRAWN FOREIGN FORCES;
AND (C) THE FREEZE TO BE AGREED IN STAGE ONE WOULD
IN FACT INVOLVE NATIONAL CEILINGS FOR THE FORCES
OF EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. AT THE CLOSE,
SOVIET REP KHLESTOV PROPOSED THAT AN ADDITIONAL
INFORMAL SESSION BE HELD ON MARCH 12 TO DISCUSS THE
FORCE DEFINITION ISSUE. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION
WITHIN THE AD HOC GROUP, WESTERN REPS SUBSEQUENTLY
AGREED TO THIS SUGGESTION.

4. AT THE MARCH 12 INFORMAL SESSION, WHICH TURNED
OUT TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, EASTERN REPS
DROPPED THEIR REQUIREMENT THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE IN
PRINCIPLE TO ALLOCATE THE THREE DISPUTED FORCE TYPES--
SSM, HELICOPTER AND GROUND-BASED TERRITORIAL AIR
DEFENSE--BY ASSIGNING SIMILAR FORCES ON EACH SIDE
TO THE SAME ARMED SERVICE, GROUND OR AIR, BEFORE
ENTERING DETAILED DISCUSSION OF ELEMENTS TO BE
INCLUDED IN AND EXCLUDED FROM A DEFINITION OF FORCES.
IN AN ENSUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON INCLUSIONS AND
EXCLUSIONS, EASTERN REPS ARGUED FOR EXCLUDING FROM
THE REDUCTION BASE THOSE WARSAW PACT MILITARY
PERSONNEL WHOM THEY ASSERTED PERFORMED THE SAME
FUNCTIONS AS CERTAIN CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF NATO
ARMED FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA. EASTERN REPS
DECLINED TO QUANTIFY THESE POSSIBLE EXCLUSIONS.
WESTERN REPS MADE A STRONG CASE THAT A DEFINITION
MUST INCLUDE ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL IN
THE AREA. AT THE CONCLUSION, KHLESTOV TERMED THE
DISCUSSION USEFUL AND SAID, WITHOUT SPECIFYING A
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Review Authority: saccheem
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAR 8-14, 197 6
TAGS: PARM, US, XG, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
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